

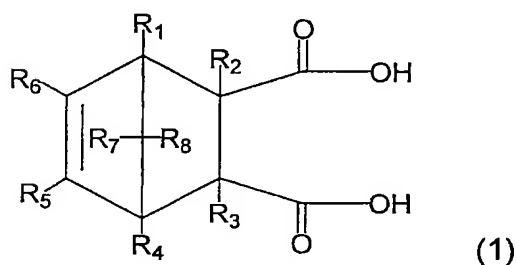
I. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1 and 10 as follows.

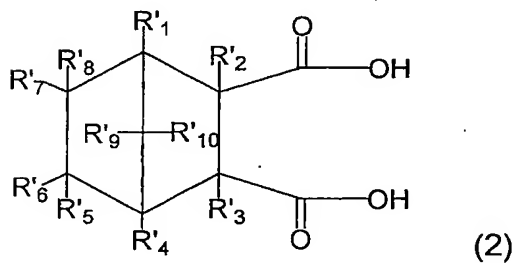
The following claims replace all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the present application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by a general formula (1)



(wherein, R₁ to R₈ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group),
or a derivative thereof, or (2)



(wherein, R'₁ to R'₁₀ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group),
or a derivative thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a mixture comprising mainly the endo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or a derivative thereof, and the exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or a derivative thereof; and

(b) mixing the mixture with a basic compound and a solvent.

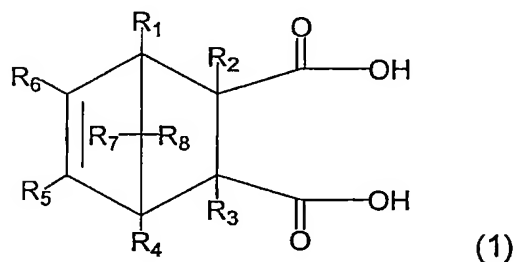
2. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, wherein said dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or a derivative thereof.
3. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the basic compound is used in a quantity that achieves at least 0.2 equivalents relative to the endo isomer, and no more than 8 equivalents relative to the mixture.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the solvent is used in a quantity of at least 0.7 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture, and no more than the larger of either 10 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture or 20 g relative to 6 mmol of the endo isomer.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or a derivative thereof is 5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic acid or a derivative thereof.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, wherein said dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a carboxylic acid represented by the general formula (2) or a derivative thereof.

7. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 6, wherein the basic compound is used in a quantity that achieves at least 0.35 equivalents and no more than 8 equivalents relative to the mixture.

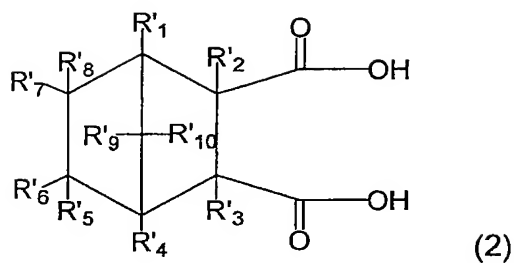
8. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to either claim 6, wherein the solvent is used in a quantity of at least 0.7 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture, and no more than 20 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 6, wherein the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (2) or a derivative thereof is norbornane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid or a derivative thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by a general formula (1)



{wherein, R_1 to R_8 represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group},
or (2),



(wherein, R'₁ to R'₁₀ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group,
the method) comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a mixture comprising mainly the endo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2), and the exo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2); and
- (b) mixing the mixture with a solvent:

11. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 10, wherein said salt of a dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1).

12. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 11, wherein the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) is a salt of 5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic acid.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 10, wherein said salt of a dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (2), with a solvent.

14. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 13, wherein the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (2) is a salt of norbornane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, further comprising the step of filtering a mixture obtained from the mixing step, and either obtaining an endo isomer of a salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) as a liquid phase, or obtaining an exo isomer of a salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) as a solid phase.

16. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 15, further comprising the step of obtaining an endo isomer or an exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2), from the endo isomer or the exo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2).

17. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to either claim 15, further comprising the step of obtaining an endo isomer or an exo isomer of an anhydride of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) from the endo isomer or the exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or a salt thereof.

18. (Withdrawn) An endo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or a derivative thereof, obtained using the method according to claim 1.

19. (Withdrawn) An exo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or a derivative thereof, obtained using the method according to claim 1.